CMs to discuss the law and order situation

1924. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to convene a meeting of Chief Ministers to discuss the law and order situation with special reference to terrorist activities in different parts of the country and the ways and means to control the prices of essential commodities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The Union Home Minister had convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Delhi, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan on 14-10-1998 to discuss the preveiling law and order situation in these States. The meeting, among others, recommended setting up a Special Task Force to evolve and implement an Action Plan to identify and tackle the problems being created by terrorists and criminal gangs for coordinated operations against Inter-State criminals, greater coordination of intelligence and strategy, amending of old laws for effective countering of strategies adopted by criminals and strangthening of State police force etc.

A meeting of the Chief Ministers of States/UTs was convened by the Prime Minister on 27-11-1998 to discuss the price rise of essential commodities during the recent past. Suggestions were made in this meeting for adoption of comprehensive measures for stimulating production of essential commodities, protection of the interests of the farmers, institution of proper mechanisms for forecasting of production, monitoring of prices streamlining of distribution, setting up of cold storage chains and processing facilities, strengthening of the Essential Commodities Act and Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies etc.

Smuggling of essential commodities on Indo-Bangladesh Border

1925. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of West Bengal has urged Government to take over some roads and routes leading to Indo- Banladesh borders in order to strengthen vigilance by Border Security Force;

(b) whether the BSF has been completely faling to check the rising smuggling activities whereby Indian produce including essential commodities are going out of the country to create shortage in the State;

(c) whether Government would take immediate action in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and results achieved, so far?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) A number of measures including reduction of gaps between Border Out Posts, intensification and increase in patrols, erection of Observation Post Towers, use of night vision devices, construction of border roads and fences along sensitive stretches have been taken to check smuggling. The seizures of essential commodities made by the Border Security Force deployed on